

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, 10-14, 27-34, and 41-48. In addition, please add claims 50-62. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, at least a portion of the upper comprising:

- a substrate layer formed of an air-permeable textile material; and
- a web layer defining a plurality of apertures that expose portions of the textile material of the substrate layer, the web layer being formed of a polymer material that infiltrates the textile material of the substrate layer and is thereby secured to the substrate layer, and the web layer forming an exterior surface of the upper to have a stepped configuration that forms a plurality of ridges positioned on the exterior surface, the ridges extending between adjacent apertures.

50. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the textile material of the substrate layer is a non-woven.

51. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the textile material of the substrate layer is a mesh material.

52. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 51, wherein the mesh material includes two spaced textile layers interconnected by a plurality of connecting fibers.

53. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the web layer forms at least a portion of an exterior surface of the upper.

54. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 53, wherein the web layer forms at least a portion of a toe region of the upper.

55. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 54, wherein at least a portion of the ridges are positioned in the toe region of the footwear.

56. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 53, wherein the web layer forms at least a portion of a lateral region of the upper.

57. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 56, wherein at least a portion of the ridges are positioned in the lateral region of the footwear.

58. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the textile material is at least partially formed from a plurality of filaments or fibers, and the polymer material of the web layer extends around the plurality of filaments or fibers to secure the web layer to the substrate layer.

59. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the polymer material of the web layer is a thermoset polyurethane material.

60. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the web layer is formed through a casting process.

61. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 60, wherein the casting process includes placing a polymer resin into a mold such that the polymer resin infiltrates the substrate layer.

62. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 49, wherein the polymer material is absent from areas of the substrate layer that correspond with positions of the apertures.